

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) An implantable device for repairing a regurgitant cardiac valve having two or more leaflets and a subvalvular structure wherein at least one leaflet has a prolapsing segment, comprising:

a structure for attachment to the prolapsing leaflet, said structure defining a coaptation surface against which an opposing leaflet coapts during systolic contraction of the heart whereby the coaptation between the leaflets is normalized.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said structure is rigid or semi-rigid.

3. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 1 wherein said structure is flexible.

4. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 1 wherein said structure is elastic.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said structure has a proximal end configured for affixation to the prolapsing leaflet.

6. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 5 wherein said proximal end has a bifurcated configuration for positioning a ~~wherein~~ a free margin of the prolapsing leaflet ~~is positioned~~ therein when said device is operatively affixed to the prolapsing leaflet.

7. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein said structure has a distal end configured to extend ~~which extends~~ freely beyond a free margin of the prolapsing leaflet when operatively implanted within the valve.

8. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said structure has a distal end configured for affixation to the subvalvular structure.

9. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said structure is substantially planar.

10. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 1 wherein said structure is curved or bowed.
11. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 10 wherein the curved structure defines an angle in the range from about 75° to less than 180°.
12. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said coaptation surface is configured to substantially mimic a normally function leaflet.
13. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said surface defines an area at least about 25 mm<sup>2</sup>.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said structure has a length in the range from about 5 mm to about 40 mm.
16. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the prolapsing leaflet also has a billowing section and wherein said surface has an area sufficient to immobilize the billowing section.
17. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the valve also has a dilated annulus resulting in a gap between the prolapsing leaflet and the opposing leaflet during systole and wherein a portion of said structure has a length sufficient to bridge the gap.
18. (Currently Amended) A system for repairing a regurgitant cardiac valve having two or more leaflets and a subvalvular structure wherein at least one leaflet has a prolapsing segment, comprising:
  - a structure configured for attachment to the prolapsing leaflet, said structure defining a coaptation surface against which an opposing leaflet coapts during systolic contraction of the heart wherein the coaptation between the leaflets is normalized;
  - a fixation means for affixing ~~attaching~~ said structure to the prolapsing leaflet.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18 where said fixation means is selected from the group consisting of sutures, staples, clips, fasteners and glues.

20. – 42. (Canceled)